

**TOP SECRET**

Copy No. 53 of 75

USIB-D-41.14/281  
(COMOR-D-25/206)  
1 March 1966  
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Requirement for High Resolution Photographic  
Coverage of South China and North Vietnam

REFERENCES : a. USIB-D-41.14/223 (COMOR-D-25/144)  
5 March 1965, Limited Distribution  
b. USIB-D-41.14/276 (COMOR-D-25/201)  
19 January 1966, Limited Distribution  
16 February 1966  
24 February 1966

1. The attached memorandum on the subject from the Acting Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, is circulated for consideration by the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) of the actions requested in paragraphs 3 and 4 thereof.

2. The Attachment is being scheduled on the agenda of the USIB meeting on 3 March 1966.

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Executive Secretary

Attachment

NRO and DIA review(s) completed.

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
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Approved For Release 2004/04/13 : CIA-RDP79B01709A002300020002-4

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Attachment  
USIB-D-41.14/281  
(COMOR-D-25/206)  
1 March 1966  
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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 February 1966

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SUBJECT: Requirement for High Resolution Photographic Coverage of South China and North Vietnam

TO: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

- References:
- a. USIB-D-41.14/223 (COMOR-D-25/144 dated 5 Mar 65, Subject: Increased Frequency of Coverage of South China
  - b. USIB-D-41.14/276 (COMOR-D-25/201 dated 19 Jan 66, Subject: Long Range Program for Overhead Image Forming Sensor Reconnaissance in the Far East
  - c. COMOR-D-56/66-19 dated 16 Feb 66, Subject: COMOR Priorities for J-Missions

1. At a recent meeting, the Joint Chiefs of Staff have expressed their concern over the lack of an adequate photo intelligence data base for use in detecting CHICOM strategic military build up in South China and direct involvement in the North Vietnam war. They have directed that every available means be exploited as a matter of highest priority to obtain high resolution coverage of the ground force installations, major complexes, and key lines of communications in the South China and North Vietnam areas.

2. By reference a, the USIB has agreed that a systematic effort be made to the fullest extent that weather will permit to obtain immediate coverage with a U-2 and the Blue Spring vehicles of major indication targets located in South China and subsequently for the time being to obtain weekly coverage of a representative one quarter of these targets. USIB in noting the latest COMOR statement of long range requirements in the Far East, reference b, has reiterated the requirement for monthly coverage of all targets in South China and 25% of priority targets to be sampled per week and near daily coverage of North Vietnam and Laos. Further, due to the dirth of high resolution coverage of these areas, the same area has been placed over the USSR in priority for search coverage by KH-4 missions. Although this type of coverage is not adequate from a resolution standpoint, photography of this quality when used in conjunction with all other sources may provide some evidence of Chicom build-up.

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3.

[redacted] it is requested that USIB reemphasize the need for timely high resolution coverage by the [redacted] U-2 program. In this regard, request that USIB direct the NRO to program to the maximum extent possible, all [redacted] missions for the collection of the following target categories until an adequate data base has been established:

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- a. Coverage of as many ground force installations possible.
  - b. Coverage of key lines of communications leading from South China into North Vietnam.
  - c. Coverage of major complexes through which these major lines of communications pass.
4. Notwithstanding an established requirement for coverage of airfields and as many submarine/naval bases as possible within a short period of time in this area, it is requested that, as an interim, ground force installations enjoy a priority over all other categories of targets. Further, that monoscopic coverage be obtained if it will result in more coverage than normally acquired through stereo bursts.
5. The DIA member of the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance has been directed to establish the above requirement with the COMOR at the earliest possible date to insure that programming of future [redacted] missions is in consonance with the above requirements.

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NRO

ALVA R. FITCH  
LT. GEN., USA  
ACTING DIRECTOR

cc: Chairman, COMOR

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